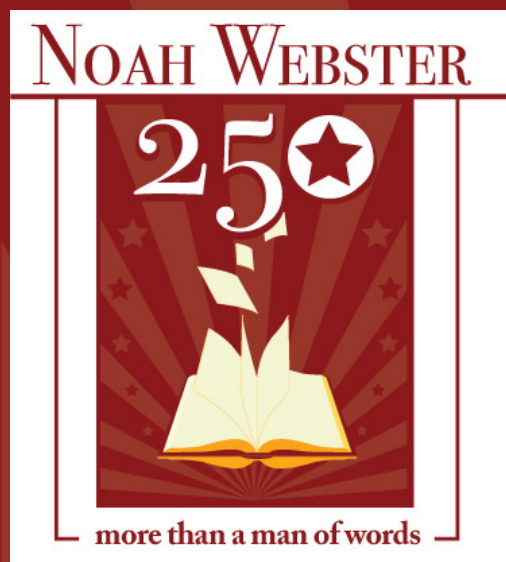


# Special Section: Noah Webster 250 Is Here



Noah Webster (1758-1843) is best known for writing the American Dictionary of the English Language, but he also advocated for universal education, abolition, and a national copyright, studied etymology, edited dozens of publications, and wrote many books. The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society is excited to celebrate Webster's 250th birthday (October 16) with a series of events dubbed "NW250".

From exhibit openings and kids programs to a huge Birthday Festival, the museum is giving Noah the party he deserves. Throughout his life, Webster fought for a united language, government, and culture— and he continues to affect Americans' lives today. His spelling changes, dictionaries, schoolbooks, and advocacy of the national copyright are all pillars of America's national identity.

Working with local organizations, West Hartford citizens, and several foundations, the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society is proud to offer a series of events and programs that celebrate Noah Webster and his profound effect on America.

With exhibit openings, a huge birthday party, lectures, kids programs, and more, there's something for everyone during NW250!

Log on to [www.NoahWebster250.org](http://www.NoahWebster250.org) for up-to-date information on programs and events.



# NW250 EVENTS

NOAH WEBSTER



Throughout the Summer: Webster's Dictionary Marathon Relay  
Local organizations will read aloud the headwords of the 1828 dictionary.

Wednesday, September 17: Schoolhouse Opening: 7 p.m.  
Celebrate the opening of the new schoolhouse theater, orientation center, and Noah Webster exhibit.

Saturday, September 20: Back to School with Noah: 1-4 p.m.  
Meet the "new" Noah Webster, play games, write with a quill, and attend a colonial schoolhouse.

Sunday, September 28: Says You!: 2 p.m.  
Attend a live taping of the popular radio game show!

Wednesday & Thursday, October 1 & 2: ESOL "Using the Dictionary" workshops: 6:30-8 p.m.  
New English speakers can learn to use the American dictionary.

Thursday, October 16: The Many Faces of Noah Webster  
A brief introduction into the life and times of Noah Webster.

Saturday, October 18: Noah Webster's Birthday Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
A day of fun and excitement in Noah's honor!

Sunday, October 19: West Hartford Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m.  
Hear the new piece, "Noah's National Language", commissioned by the museum to celebrate Noah's birthday, as well as works by Mozart, Haydn, and Bruch.

Thursday, October 23: Early American Education  
Uses first-hand narratives and focuses on early American education through the eyes of teachers.

Thursday, October 30: Noah Webster and the Cause: The Abolition of Slavery  
A discussion of emancipation in America, with a focus on Webster's writings and beliefs.

Thursday, November 6: Global Warming: An Historical Perspective  
A presentation on global warming today and Webster's writings on the subject.

Thursday, November 13: Webster's Dictionary  
Follow the Dictionary from Webster's 1806 Compendious to today's Merriam-Webster editions.

Thursday, November 20: Conversations with Noah:  
Enjoy a delicious sit-down dinner after a Q & A with Noah at the Noah Webster House.

*For further information on NW250 programs and events, visit [www.NoahWebster250.org](http://www.NoahWebster250.org).  
Some programs may have fees involved.*

# Webster's Dictionary Marathon Relay

The museum is sponsoring the reading aloud of the 1828 version of Noah Webster's Dictionary. The relay kicked off in April, with the President's College of the University of Hartford reading the 4,686 words of the letter "A". Since then, other organizations have pledged their time to read other letters. A complete schedule of readings is below. To sign up to read for any of these letters, log on to [www.NoahWebster250.org](http://www.NoahWebster250.org) and click on "Marathon Relay". This page also offers the times and locations of readings.

Letter (# of words)	Date	Organization:
A (4686) -	April 19	University of Hartford's President's College
B (3218)--	May 18-24	Bridge Family Center
C (6209) -	May 25-31	Conard High School
D (4079)-	June 1-7	LaPerla Jewelers
E (2903) -	June 8-14	Kingswood-Oxford school
F (2699)-	June 15-21	Friends of the West Hartford Library
G (1796)-	June 22-28	Grace Church
H (2203)-	June 29-July 5	Hartford Public Library
I (3406)-	July 6-12	
J (433)-	July 13-19	West Hartford Senior Center
K (314) -	July 20-26	Enlightened Professionals Center
L (1731)-	July 27-Aug. 2	West Hartford Public Library
M (2935)-	August 3-9	Mercy Community Health
N (947) -	August 10-16	West Hartford Belles
O (1550)-	August 17-23	Prosser Library, Bloomfield
P (4904)-	August 24-30	
Q (350)-	Aug.31-Sept. 6:	Elmwood Community Center
R (3227)-	Sept. 7-13	Kent Memorial Library, Suffield
S (6623)-	Sept.14-20	Solomon Schechter Day School
T (2813)-	Sept. 21-27	
U (3195)-	Sept.28-Oct. 4	The Town and Country Club
V (984) -	October 5-11	Avon Free Public Library
W-Z (231) -	October 18	Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society

## *New Orientation Center, Webster Exhibit, & Schoolhouse Theater Opening*



On September 17 at 7 p.m., the public is invited to attend the grand opening of the new orientation center – including the new schoolhouse theater and Noah Webster exhibit.

The theater has been designed to emulate an Early American schoolhouse- with desks, chairs, and a rustic interior. This theater will allow visitors to see a new introductory film in a cozy, historical environment.

The new permanent Noah Webster exhibit will explore Webster's accomplishments and how he continues to impact our lives today.

Activities, objects, and facts will give visitors insight into Noah the lexicographer, politician, abolitionist, family man, and more. Even kids can have fun with the interactive games and activities.

The Grand Opening may even include the first look at the new Noah Webster film which is being created by Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker Karyl Evans and a local team of researchers.

The Grand Opening is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available and donations will be gratefully accepted.



## *Back to School with Noah Webster*



On Saturday, September 20 from 1-4 p.m., kids and parents alike can experience what it would have been like to attend a one-room schoolhouse. Arithmetic, recitation, spelling bees, and more would have been the order of the day. Not only that, Noah Webster himself will be there to teach some lessons and answer questions.

Other activities include learning to write with a quill pen, making a copybook, and playing some fun schoolyard games.

The new Noah Webster Exhibit will also be open so visitors can learn about Webster's life in Early America. This event is free to the public. Come meet the "new" Noah Webster!

Back to School with Noah is free to museum members. Regular museum admission will be charged to the general public.

### **Word Games**

How many words can you find in the phrase  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOAH WEBSTER?

Here's a few to start:

WRITER	WORTH	POND
EARTH	BABYSAT	HYPE

Now, try to create an ANAGRAM using all the letters in the phrase HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOAH WEBSTER

*Example: The Writer: Papas Handy Hobby*

An ANAGRAM uses all the letters in a word or phrase to create another word or phrase.





# Says You! Comes to Town



Each week, panelists on Says You! use words, definitions, and straight out bluffs to help their team win the game. The show records in front of a live audience each week, and gives audience members the chance to participate.

On Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 2 p.m., Says You! is coming to the Hoffman Auditorium in the Bruyette Atheneum at St. Joseph

College (Asylum Ave., West Hartford). Panelists may include Barry Nolan, Francine Archbar, Tony Kahn, Caroly Faye Fox, Arnie Reisman, Paula Lyons, and Phil Salkind.

Richard Sher, host and producer of Says You!, has been on the show since 2000. He invented it as a parlor game in the 1990s.

Members of the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society receive early ticket availability, pre-

ferred seating, a pre-show reception with the cast, and a price of only \$12 per person. General public tickets are \$18 per adult, \$15 for students and seniors, and \$8 for children. For non-members, the reception costs \$10 per person.

Tickets to the show are available by calling the Box Office at the Carol Autorino Center at St. Joseph college at 860-231-5555 or by logging on to <https://ticketing.sjc.edu/>

If you've never heard Says You!, tune in to WFCR 88.5 out of Amherst, MA, or listen live at [www.wfcr.org](http://www.wfcr.org) at 1 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday.



## Crossword Challenge!

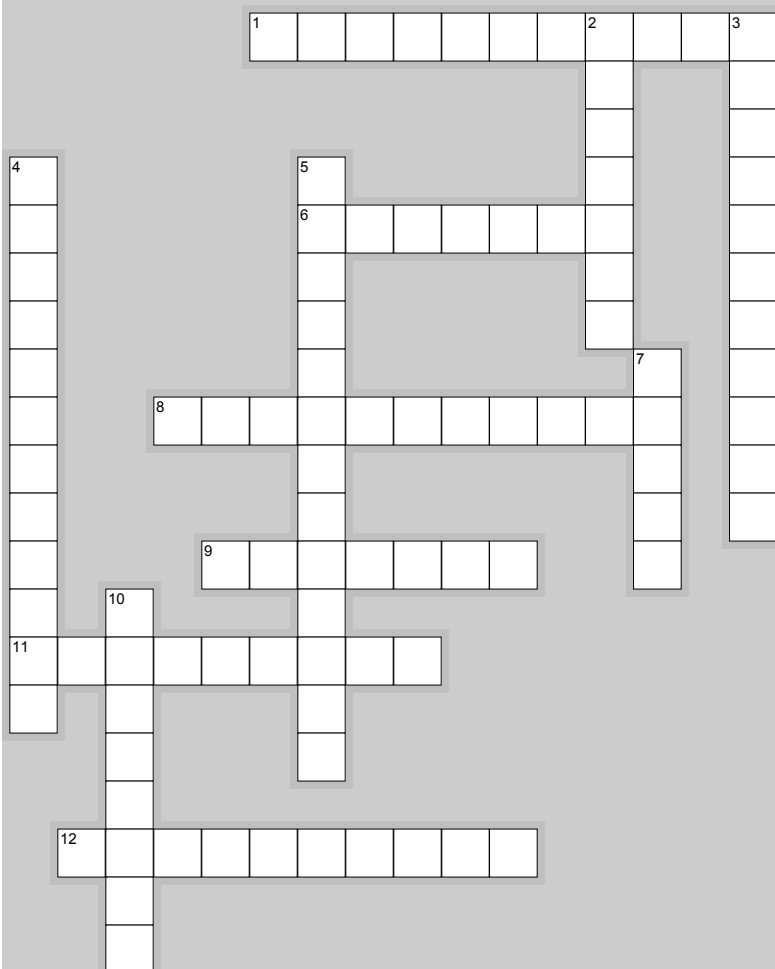
Can you fill in all the answers? Hint: they're all in this NW250 book!

### Across:

1. It's his 250th birthday this year!
6. The other place in town named after Noah—check it out!
8. One of the activities at Noah's Birthday Festive. I don't think I'll win
9. The last name of the brothers who purchased the rights to Noah's dictionary.
11. One of Noah's many causes
12. Emmy award-winner who directed the new film about Noah

### Down:

2. Noah may have enjoyed this radio game show—if he'd had a radio
3. The guy who invented that radio game show.
4. Connecticut's state troubadour
5. Another of his causes— still causing controversy 200 years later
7. Reading the dictionary aloud is a lot faster since it's a...
10. Noah's Birthday Party will take place here



# Noah's Birthday Festival

## Saturday, October 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

On Saturday, October 18, the museum, working with other Town groups, will host a giant birthday celebration for Noah! The party will be based at Town Hall (50 South Main St, West Hartford) with other activities at the Noah Webster Library and Webster Walk (at Blue Back Square). The day will include storytellers, A Town-wide spelling bee, horse-drawn carriage rides, a fife and drum corps, food, Early American crafters, and much more. Noah's Birthday Festival will take place from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. A special musical work inspired by Noah's life will be played on Sunday, October 19 at 7 p.m. by the West Hartford Symphony Orchestra at their concert at Conard High School. Visit [www.whso.org](http://www.whso.org) for tickets and information.



**All Day**

### **Horse and Carriage Rides**

Free rides through Blue Back Square (Named after Noah's popular Spelling Book). *TBA*

**All Day**

### **Tasty Treats**

Satisfy your cravings with mulled apple cider, roasted corn, Noah's Special Burger, and Blue-Backed Soda! *TBA*

**All Day**

### **Museum Nook**

Explore literary and historic museums from around New England. *Town Hall Auditorium*

**All Day**

### **Fire, Leather and Clay**

Heritage craft exposition. *In front of Town Hall*

**All Day**

### **Colonial Games**

Come play games from long ago. *Town Hall Green*

**All Day**

### **Word Art**

Enjoy an art show that defines words introduced and altered by Noah Webster. Then, try your own hand at defining art through watercolors. *Noah Webster Public Library*

**All Day**

### **Word Arts and Crafts**

Create your own Word Art. *TBA*



**11:00**

### **Songs, Tunes, & Tales of America**

Program by Tom Callinan, Connecticut's first "Official State Troubadour". *Noah Webster Public Library*

**11:30 & 2:30**

### **Meet Mr. Webster!**

Have a personal conversation with Noah Webster in his school house. *TBA*

**11:45 & 3:00**

### **The Magical Mr. Bayly**

See the mesmerizing 18th-century magic of Mr. Bayly. *Town Hall Auditorium*

**12:15 & 2:00**

### **Music of Freedom**

Fife and Drum Corp performs some of the music that Noah Webster might have played for George Washington. *TBA*

**1:00**

### **Spelling Bee**

A competition of spellers. *Town Hall Auditorium*

**3:30**

### **The Dictionary Game**

A family game show. *Town Hall Auditorium*

**4:00**

### **Happy Birthday, Noah!**

Share in this delicious (and special) cake! *Town Hall lawn*

### **Throughout the Day**

Shop at the Barnes & Noble in Blue Back Square a portion of your total purchase will be donated to the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society. Look for vouchers at the Festival or mention the promotion upon checkout.

# Noah Webster Lecture Series

This six-week lecture series will cover subjects that were close to Noah Webster's heart. The lectures will take place at the Wilde Auditorium on the University of Hartford campus (unless otherwise noted). Each lecture will offer a half-hour reception at 5:30 p.m., with talks beginning at 6 p.m. See individual lecture information for fees. Sponsored by the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society and the President's College of the University of Hartford.



## Thursday, October 16: The Many Faces of Noah Webster

*Free* A brief introduction into the life and times of Noah Webster. Guests will learn about Webster's many talents and interests and how they still affect America and the world. *Lecturer: Chris Dobbs, Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society*



## Thursday, October 23: Early American Education

*\$20/person\** Using first-hand narratives, this lecture will focus on early American education through the eyes of teachers in Webster's time. *Lecturer: Michael Day, owner of Clippership Publications*



## Thursday, October 30: Noah Webster and the Cause: The Abolition of Slavery

*\$20/person\** A discussion of the process of emancipation in America, with a focus on Webster's writings and beliefs. *Lecturer: Dr. Robert Forbes, UConn, Torrington*



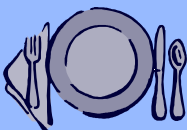
## Thursday, November 6: Global Warming: An Historical Perspective

*Free* In 1799, Webster delivered an address about the changing temperatures of winter. In the two centuries since, the topic has moved to the forefront of world environmental. *Lecturer: Dr. R. Laurence Davis, University of New Haven*



## Thursday, November 13: Webster's Dictionary

*\$20/person\** This presentation will follow the American Dictionary from Webster's 1806 Compendious to today's multi-editor Merriam-Webster editions. *Lecturer: John Morse, President of Merriam-Webster*



## Special Event:

## Thursday, November 20: Conversations with Noah:

*\$50/person* Enjoy a delicious sit-down dinner after a Q & A period with Noah. Takes place at the Noah Webster House.

*\*These lectures can be combined into a single ticket for \$50 per person, \$40 for museum members and the Fellows of the President's College.*

### Thank you to our NW250 sponsors...

- ♦ Connecticut Humanities Council
- ♦ Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust
- ♦ Gariphic, Inc.
- ♦ Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- ♦ Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
- ♦ The Vance Foundation
- ♦ Webster Bank
- ♦ West Hartford Rotary



### And to our NW250 partners...

- ♦ Barnes & Noble @ Blue Back Square
- ♦ The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities, St. Joseph College
- ♦ ESOL Teachers of the West Hartford Public Schools
- ♦ Hometown Marketing (Living in West Hartford Magazine)
- ♦ Park Road Association
- ♦ The President's College of the University of Hartford
- ♦ Town of West Hartford
- ♦ West Hartford Junior Woman's Club
- ♦ West Hartford Public Library
- ♦ West Hartford Public Schools
- ♦ West Hartford Rotary
- ♦ West Hartford Symphony Orchestra



President's College

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